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Message Text

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11
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02

OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 NSC-05 ERDE-00 /083 W
---------- 036310
O R 151030Z NOV 75
FM US DEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1285
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0541

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: RECIPROCITY ISSUE

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS AS YET NO FINAL AGREEMENT AMONG WASHINGTON AGENCIES REGARDING CHANGE IN CURRENT US POSITION ON RECIPROCITY. AS REGARDS SUBSTANCE, WE WOULD SUPPORT THE NSC/STATE PROPOSAL MOST RECENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION WHICH LEAVES OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ALLIES MAY LATER DECIDE TO ASK FOR RECIPROCITY. HOWEVER, AS WE SEE IT, IT IS NOW TOO LATE TO INTRODUCE INTO NATO ANY CHANGED POSITION IF THE WEST IS TO PRESENT OPTION 3 TO THE EAST PRIOR TO THE CHRISTMAS BREAK. TIMING CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE SET FORWARD IN MBFR VIENNA 0537, APPEAR TO MAKE IT IMPRACTICAL TO SEEK ALLIED AGREEMENT ON A SUBSTANCE CHANGE OF
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POSITION ON THE RECIPROCITY ISSUE IN THE NATO

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POSITION PAPERS SINCE THIS WOULD INVOLVE CONSULTATION
WITH SHAPE, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL COPITALS.

2. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH WE MAY BE MISINTERPRETING ALLIED
SILENCE ON RECIPROCITY, AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT
DOES NOT APPEAR THAT SUCH A CHANGE WILL BE A REQUIREMENT
FOR ALLIED AGREEMENT TO PUT OPTION 3 FORWARD. NO REPEAT
NO ALLIED OFFICIAL IN VIENNA HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO
EXPRESS CONCERN TO US ABOUT THE PRESENT US POSITION ON
RECIPROCITY. NOR HAVE WE SEEN ANY INDICATION
IN USNATO REPORTING THAT THERE ARE ALLIED CONCERNS ON THIS
POINT SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO BLOCK ALLIED AGREEMENT
ON OPTION 3. TO THE CONTRARY, BOTH UK AND FRG INCLUDED
PROVISIONS ON RECIPROCITY IN THEIR MOST RECENT RTREATMENT
OF ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF TIME URGENCY AND OF APPARENT
ABSENCE OF PRESSURE FROM ALLIES TO CHANGE THE RECIPROCITY
POSITION, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES
REACH AGREEMENT ON TWO MAIN POINTS. THE FIRST WOULD CON-
CERN WHAT SHOULD BE SAID TO THE ALLIES NOW. THE SECOND
WOULD BE AN INTERNAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG WASHINGTON AGENCIES
THAT THIS MOVE TO THE ALLIES WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE
TO A FUTURE WASHINGTON DECISION ON WHETHER TO DROP
RECIPROCITY AND THAT THE RECIPROCITY ISSUE WOULD BE
STUDIED FURTHER WITH A VIEW TO REACHING A FINAL RESOLUTION
BY THE END OF JANUARY, WHICH IS THE EARLIEST IT WOULD
BECOME TOPICAL WITH THE EAST.

4. AS REGARDS WHAT SHOULD BE SAID TO THE ALLIES NOW,
WE SUGGEST THAT THE US APPROACH THE FRG, WHICH HAS BRACKETED IN
PARA 6 OF THE GUIDANCE, WITH A REQUEST TO DROP ITS
BRACKETS ON THE BASIS OF THE RATIOALE BELOW. THE US
COULD THEN GIVE THE SAME EXPLANATION IN THE SPC.
IF IT APPEARED TACTICALLY ADVISABLE, THE US COULD ALSO
INTRODUCE THIS LANGUAGE INTO PARA LLBIS OF THE
ALLIED POSITION PAPER AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR EXISTING BELGIAN
LANGUAGE.

5. THE POINT WE WOULD SUGGEST MAKING TO THE ALLIES IS
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THAT THE STRINGENCY OF LMITATIONS ON SOVIET NUCLEAR
ELEMENTS WHICH THE WEST CAN ASK FOR WITHOUT OVER-BURDENING
THE NEGOTIABILITY OF THE OVERALL WESTERN PROPOSAL IS IN
PART A FACTOR OF THE DEGREE OF INTEREST THE EAST SHOWS
IN THE NEW WESTERN PROPOSAL AS WELL AS OF CONDITIONS
WHICH THE EAST MAY RAISE IN ITS RESPONSE TO THAT PROPOSAL.
THE WEST SHOULD THEREFORE AWAIT THE INITIAL INSTRUCTED
EASTERN RESPONSE ON REDUCTION ASPECTS OF ITS

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POSITION ON LIMITING ANALOGOUS SOVIET NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IN THE NGA.

6. OPERATIVELY, THIS LANGUAGE HAS THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF DEFERRING THE ISSUE OF LIMITATIONS ON SOVIET NUCLEARS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING THE ALLIES A REASON FOR NOT GOING INTO THE ISSUE FURTHER AT THIS TIME.

7. AS NECESSARY, THE UK AND FRG COULD ALSO BE TOLD THAT THE US IS RECONSIDERING THE ENTIRE ISSUE.RESOR

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